

WHA Press Guidance
May 22, 2002

VENEZUELA: TRIP TO VENEZUELA BY RICHARD HAASS

Q: Why is Richard Haass traveling to Venezuela?

A: POLICY PLANNING STAFF DIRECTOR AMBASSADOR

RICHARD HAASS WILL TRAVEL TO VENEZUELA MAY 22-24.

~~HE PLANS TO MEET WITH A BROAD CROSS-SECTION OF~~

VENEZUELANS INCLUDING GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS,
MEMBERS OF THE OPPOSITION, AND PRIVATE SECTOR AND
CIVIL SOCIETY LEADERS.

THIS VISIT UNDERSCORES THE IMPORTANCE WE PLACE ON
TRYING TO MAINTAIN A CONSTRUCTIVE RELATIONSHIP
WITH VENEZUELA AND OUR INTEREST IN PROMOTING A
STRENGTHENING OF VENEZUELA'S DEMOCRATIC
INSTITUTIONS. WE HAVE WELCOMED PRESIDENT CHAVEZ'S
CALLS FOR NATIONAL REFLECTION AND DIALOGUE TO
ACHIEVE NATIONAL RECONCILIATION. WE URGE ALL
VENEZUELANS TO ACCEPT THE ORGANIZATION OF

AMERICAN STATES' OFFER OF ASSISTANCE AND ENGAGE IN
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

**FULL AND GENUINE DIALOGUE TO MAKE THIS PROCESS OF
RECONCILIATION A SUCCESS.**

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